

ABSTRACT

A developing device for electrophotographic image has a developing mechanism having a developer carrier for carrying a developer along a preset circulating route including a developing area and a developer restricting element for restricting the developer on the developer carrier, and a developer supply mechanism having a storing unit. The storing unit is filled with a start-up developer in the vicinity of the developer carrier and a replenishing developer remoter than the start-up developer from the developer carrier. The start-up developer and the replenishing developer have different grain sizes or grain size distributions. Further, a developing method for electrophotographic image has the steps of using the start-up developer at an initial state of use of the developing mechanism, and using the replenishing developer differed in grain size or grain size distribution from the start-up developer after an end of the initial state of use of the developing mechanism.